



**“O Brother!” Becoming the brother I always wanted
April 29 & May 4, 2022**

Crossing the Threshold

Acceptance – Mutuality – **AFFIRMATION** - Brotherhood

Boys to Men: every boy. . .

- wants to be invited along on an adventure.
- wants to be let in on a secret.
- wants to be counted on for his competence
- wants to be released to pursue his own challenge

Affirmation to a friend is the deliberate expression of encouragement:

*“And Jonathan, Saul’s son, rose and **went** to David at Horesh, and **strengthened** his hand in God. And he **said** to him: “Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. **You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you.** Saul my father also knows this.”*
I Samuel 23:16-17

1) Direct Affirmation: Say it! MIRROR

Affirmation to a friend may be the difference between. . . .

Eph. 4:29

- High achiever: “I am amazed at what you’ve accomplished.” That was hard but you got it done!”
- Analyzer: “If you hadn’t foreseen that problem we would have made a big mistake.”
- Communicator: “Your words and ideas really captured what needed to be said.”
- Empathizer: “You have such a gift to see the person behind the problem.”

Matt. 20:25-28

Authority – Accountability - Affirmation - Acceptance

2) Indirect Affirmation: Show it! **LEVER**

- Join in:
- Express joy:
- Seek him out:

3) Reverb Affirmation: Send it! **ECHO**

- Speak well of him in his absence:
- Proverbs 31:23,28
- Honor him through referral and recommendation:

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What do I remember as an affirmation from my boyhood that still encourages me?
- 2) Practice: Do you know someone at your table whom you can affirm right now?
- 3) Put aside false humility: Tell us what recent word or act of affirmation has meant the most to you?

ACTION STEPS:

- I will notice my wife/ son/ daughter doing something right and affirm them.
- I will seek out a co-worker and affirm his efforts.
- I will text or email a friend about the strengths I see, and need, in him.